

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Steve G. Baker, et al.

Serial No.:

Filed:

For: GRAFT ASSEMBLY HAVING  
SUPPORT STRUCTURE ALONG A  
LENGTH

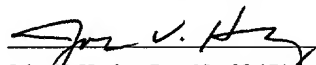
Date: January 30, 2002

Examiner: M. Milano

Group Art Unit: 3738

**Certificate of Mailing Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 30, 2002.

  
John W. Hanley, Reg. No. 38,171

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The above-captioned application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/931,323.  
Before action, please amend the above-captioned application as indicated below.

**IN THE TITLE**

Please replace "THORACIC GRAFT AND DELIVERY CATHETER" with --  
GRAFT ASSEMBLY HAVING SUPPORT STRUCTURE --.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Line 1, please delete "THORACIC GRAFT AND DELIVERY CATHETER."  
Please insert at line 1, the following -- GRAFT ASSEMBLY HAVING SUPPORT  
STRUCTURE --.

Please delete the paragraph at lines 2-13 of the specification.

Please insert at line 2 of the specification the following: -- This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/931,323, filed September 16, 1997, which is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/358,067, filed December 15, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,693,083. --

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel original claims 1-21 and add new claims 22-32.

22. (New) A graft assembly for repairing aneurysms, comprising:  
a graft having a length, a first end and a second end; and  
a plurality of unconnected and discreet frames attached to the graft along substantially the length of the graft, each frame defining a ring and having a plurality of alternating apices.
23. (New) A graft assembly of claim 22, further comprising at least one wall engaging member attached to one of the plurality of frames.
24. (New) A graft assembly of claim 23, wherein the wall engaging member is in the form of a hook.
25. (New) The graft assembly of claim 22, wherein each of the plurality of frames are self-expanding.
26. (New) The graft assembly of claim 22, further comprising a helix configured at each of the alternating apieces.
27. (New) The graft assembly of claim 22, further comprising a plurality of wall engaging members attached to one of the plurality of frames attached to the first end of the graft.

28. (New) The graft assembly of claim 22, wherein the graft assembly has a tapered profile.
29. (New) The graft assembly of claim 28, further comprising a longitudinal pleat which provides the graft assembly with a tapered profile.
30. (New) The graft assembly of claim 22, wherein each of the plurality of frames have a length, each of the frames being configured so as to lack structure overlapping the length of an adjacent frame.
31. (New) The graft assembly of claim 22, wherein the frames are positioned within an interior of the graft.
32. (New) The graft assembly of claim 22, wherein a plurality of apices of certain frames extend beyond the length of the graft.

#### REMARKS

The originally-filed application contained claims 1-21. In the present paper, Applicants have cancelled claim 1-21 and added new claims 22-32. Accordingly, claims 22-32 are presented for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John V. Hanley, Registration No. 38,171

JVH:atc  
6060 Center Drive, 10th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
Tel. No. (310) 824-5555  
Facsimile (310) 824-9696  
#227447